



DOCKING  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1958

to which is appended the

Report of the

SENIOR

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



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DOCKING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. W.H. CRICHTON, C.I.E., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector

W.B. JENKINS, C.R.S.I., C.S.I.B.

Additional Public Health Inspectors.

G.W. SANGER, C.R.S.I., C.S.I.B.

B.J. KIRKHAM, C.R.S.I., C.S.I.B. (from August)

P.F. BROOKS, C.R.S.I., C.S.I.B. (until August)

Clerk (part-time).

Miss N.H. PULL

DOCKING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Committee.

1958  
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Chairman           - Col. G.H. Winter

Vice-Chairman   - Mrs. C. Clifton Brown

Members           - Rev. W.M. Abernethy  
                  Mrs. R.B. Allen  
                  Mr. B.T. Borthwick  
                  Mr. F. Ebling  
                  Mrs. K.W. Craske  
                  Mr. W.G. Cunningham  
                  Mrs. D.S.L. Garland  
                  Mr. F.J. Gourlay  
                  Mr. E.J.F. Isherwood (ex-officio)  
                  Mr. E.H. Jennings  
                  Mr. E.E. Lack, J.P.  
                  Mr. J.E.A. Lambert, J.P. (ex-officio)  
                  Mr. W.C. Leonard  
                  Mr. H.H. Middleton  
                  Mr. A.E. Richmond  
                  Mr. A.W. Ringer  
                  Mr. R.T. Rush  
                  Mrs. H.F. Sands  
                  Mr. H.E. Schulman  
                  Mrs. V.E. Torrey.

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- PREFACE -

The Chairman & Members,  
Docking Rural District Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Annual Public Health Report 1958.

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the Annual Report for 1958 on the public health of the District. In this I have incorporated the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

On the whole, the portents of good health in the District, as judged by the Vital Statistics, are favourable. Thus, the live birth rate (19.9 per 1,000 population) is higher than the average rate during the last five years, while the general death rate (11.4 per 1,000 population) and the infant mortality rate (22 per 1,000 live births) are both lower than the average for the last quinquennium. On the other hand it is not so pleasant to find that the proportion of deaths from cancer continues to increase and that coronary disease of the heart is accountable for almost twice the number of deaths as in the preceding year.

The most gratifying item in the statistics is that for the fourth year in succession there has been no death from pulmonary tuberculosis but here again the horizon is clouded by an appreciable number of new notifications (vide page 6), by the relatively high index of tuberculin sensitivity (vide page 6) and by the appreciable rise in the percentage of animals found infected with tuberculosis in slaughter houses (vide page 18). These are all evidence of surviving foci of infection which it is hoped will be tracked down and eradicated completely in the near future.

Another welcome item in the Statistics is the low record of incidence of infectious diseases other than tuberculosis, although it must be remembered that many of the non-notifiable diseases play havoc with childrens' health, especially coughs and colds.

In the sphere of housing, I can only hope that the Council will be afforded facilities to pursue their programme of slum clearance with renewed vigour to make up for the delays imposed by financial stringency in 1958. Housing is still the most important and most urgent public health problem today.

It is disappointing to record that, despite a growing volume of unimpeachable evidence from every part of the world on the value and safety of fluoridation of water supplies as a means of preventing dental caries, it has been impossible to proceed with the recommendations made to you in my first report.

Besides expressing my gratitude to the Staff of the Docking District Council for their unfailing assistance, I also wish to pay tribute to my Office Staff in the Local Health Office who devote much time and labour in the preparation of Statistical data for the Report and carry out all the typing.

Finally I wish to thank you Mr. Chairman and Members for your continued interest and support in my duties.

Your obedient Servant

W.H. CRICHTON

C.I.E., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health.



PART I- General -1. Staff -

In the Staff of the Public Health Department, Mr. B.J. Kirkham, C.R.S.I., C.S.I.B., was appointed in August to replace Mr. P.F. Brooks, C.R.S.I., C.S.I.B., as Additional Health Inspector. Mr. Brooks, whose services in the Department were much appreciated, resigned on appointment as Additional Public Health Inspector to Slough. I wish to take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the excellent work of the Department and especially Mr. Jenkins, the Chief Public Health Inspector and of the Additional Inspectors.

2. Area & Population of the District -

The District covers 87,386 acres and comprises 30 Parishes. It is essentially rural in character.

The mid-year population of the District in 1958 has been estimated by the Registrar General at 18,190, that is to say 650 more than the estimate in the preceding year. The natural increase in the population i.e. the difference between the number of live births (363) and the number of deaths (237) is only 126. It is difficult to assign any reason for these differences in any specific year in the intercensal period. The population figure in 1951, the Census year was 17,450 and the estimated figure is based on an average annual rate of increase of about 106 which corresponds roughly to the natural increase.

3. Meteorological Factors -

By courtesy of the R.A.F. Meteorological Officer at West Raynham who have furnished the data (vide Appendix A page 11 ), some indication can be given of the circumstances affecting the area generally. There was no very notable departure from the conditions obtaining in the preceding year excepting for the colder January and February which culminated in a severe blizzard, the disruptive effects of which on the public services might have been serious had they been more prolonged. The total rainfall was some 3" higher than in the preceding year.

- Vital Statistics -

(1) Live Births -- The Registrar General's figures for births and still births occurring in the District in 1958 are as follows:-

Live Births	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	179 (152)	161 (151)	340 (303)
Illegitimate	9 ( 16)	15 ( 8)	23 ( 24)
Still Births			
Legitimate	3 ( 5)	2 ( 1)	5 ( 6)
Illegitimate	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
Totals	190 (173)	178 (160)	368 (333)

≡ Figures in brackets relate to 1957.

(2) The Live Birth Rate - The crude rate is 19.9. per 1,000 population as compared with 18.6 in the preceding year and the highest rate recorded in the last eight years. Thus:-

<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
15.87	16.67	17.14	18.05	19.01	19.87	18.6	19.9

The corrected birth rate, after application of the comparability factor (1.10) is 21.89 per 1,000. The rate for the preceding year was 20.46. ☺

(3) The Still Birth Rate - 13.5 per 1,000 live and still births. ☺

(4) Infant Mortality -

a) The number of deaths among children under one year of age was 8 as against 6 in the preceding year. All eight deaths were among legitimate babies. These represent a total infant mortality rate of 22.0 per 1,000 live births as against 18.3 per 1,000 in the preceding year. ☺ The rate during the last five years was as follows:-

<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
38.8	34.5	29.5	11.5	18.3

b) The legitimate infant mortality rate was 23.5 per 1,000.

c) There were no illegitimate infant deaths.

d) The Neonatal mortality rate (first four weeks).

4 children - 3 males and 1 female - died under 4 weeks of age from prematurity. The neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births is therefore 11.0 as compared with 18.3 per 1,000 in 1957. ☺

(5) Illegitimate births - These totalled 23 as compared with 24 in the preceding year and they represent a percentage of 6.3 of the total live births as compared with 7.3% in 1957.

(6) Maternal Deaths - None was recorded.

(7) Deaths -

(a) The number of deaths at all ages recorded by the Registrar General during the year was as follows:-

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
108 (105)	101 (132)	209 (237)

(b) The crude death rate - is 11.4 per 1,000 population as compared with 18.6 in 1957, 12.6 in 1956 and 11.35 in 1955. ☺

(c) The corrected death rate on application of the comparability factor (0.80) is 9.12 per 1,000 as against 15.2 in the preceding year.

☺ The rates for 1958 in England and Wales were as follows - Birth Rate 16.4; Still Births 11.6; Death Rate 11.7; Infant Mortality Rate 22.6; and Neonatal Mortality Rate 16.2.



(d) The causes of death - These are shown in a statement at Appendix B (page 12) as recorded by the Registrar General. For the fourth year in succession there has been no death from tuberculosis of the lungs, nor was any death recorded in 1958 from any other form of tuberculosis. Deaths attributable to cancer (including leukaemia) constituted 17.7% of the total deaths registered. In the preceding year the percentage was 16.3%. It will be noted that coronary disease of the heart was responsible for almost double the number of deaths which occurred from this cause in the preceding year, and constituted 15.3% of the total deaths, as against 8.1%. Excepting for these points, there is nothing very striking in the recorded deaths in the District.

- Communicable Diseases -

(1) The number of infectious diseases notified during the year is the lowest on record and represents only a small fraction of the number notified last year. Thus:-

Measles	52 (501)	
Whooping Cough	2 (156)	
Pneumonia	1 (14)	
T.B. Pulmonary	= 10 (8)	including 1 inward transfer
" Non-pulmonary	= 2 (2)	" " "
Jaundice	2 (-)	
Meningitis	1 (-)	
Scarlet Fever	- (2)	
Poliomyelitis	- (4)	
Puerperal pyrexia	1 (1)	
		<hr/>
Total	71 (688)	
		<hr/>

(2) Tuberculosis - Although there is every reason for satisfaction in the fact that there have been no deaths from tuberculosis for several years, it must be acknowledged from the number of new cases which have been notified as occurring in the District (9 Pulmonary - 1 Non-pulmonary) that there must be some undetermined foci of infection which still constitute a risk to the community. This is borne out by the results of the tuberculin tests carried out on school leavers who display a very much higher degree of tuberculin sensitivity than those in the central and eastern parts of the Area. Within the District no particular Parish appears to be specially affected. Of the pulmonary cases notified, seven were males and three were females. With the exception of one case (F.81) all were in the 20 - 40 age group.

Of the two non-pulmonary cases of tuberculosis notified, one was an "imported" case, infected outside the District, but the other was a local case from Burnham Market. It will be noted from the statement on slaughter-house meat inspections (Chief Public Health Inspector's Report, page 18) the percentage of meat found affected by tuberculosis was considerably higher than that found in the preceding year.

B.C.G. Vaccinations - The greater part of the programme in the District was carried out in the latter part of the preceding year. The following work was carried out in April, May & June of 1958:-

	<u>Tuberculin</u>			<u>Vaccinated</u>	<u>X-Rayed</u>
	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Positive</u>	<u>%</u>		
Hunstanton Sec. Mod.	24	11	45.8	13	11
Dersingham Sec. Mod.	37	17	45.9	20	17

All the positive reactors were declared clear on X-ray examination. Six school leavers who had previously (1957) been found tuberculin negative and had been vaccinated were retested in April and found to have been successfully "converted" to positive.

Mass X-ray Survey - The Mass X-ray Unit carried out a Survey in the District in October. The Unit was based at Hunstanton. Every Parish within reasonable distance of Hunstanton was advised of the visit and of the times of the various sessions and it was urged that transport facilities should be organised for people in the remoter areas. The total number of people examined by the Unit was 1,477 (748 male: 729 female) of whom only 5 were referred for further investigation and one was subsequently reported to require supervision. This result does not tally either with the number of notifications of the disease or with the high tuberculin sensitivity rate. It must be remembered on the other hand, that the number examined by the X-ray Unit by no means represents all the Parishes in the District; indeed only 164 bookings are definitely known to have been made from the District itself.

The Tuberculosis Register - By the end of the year the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register was as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary Cases</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary Cases</u>	
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
32 (35)	22 (20)	3 (4)	8 (6)
54 (55)		11 (10)	

These figures take into account the cases who have moved out of the District or into it. The figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

(3) Poliomyelitis - The vaccination programme was seriously hampered by many factors - weather conditions, intercurrent illnesses, individual preferences for certain types of vaccine which were not available at the time or were in short supply. Despite these difficulties 3,357 injections were carried out during the year including 1940 children protected with two doses and 141 with three doses. Authority for the third dose was introduced in June. The programme continues with the help of General Medical Practitioners and R.A.F. Medical Officers.

(4) Other Communicable Diseases -

(a) "Epidemic Vomiting" - A small outbreak of this condition was notified by the School Authorities in Heacham and Rudham in January.



(b) Coughs and Colds - These are more devastating in their immediate disruptive effects in school life than any other condition. In my view, they constitute the most urgent problem affecting the health of young children today. Coughs and colds accounted for as many as 65% of absences in Heacham and Hunstanton in the early months of the year.

(c) Mumps - This disease also occurred in troublesome numbers in the Burnhams, Shernbourne, North Creake and Dersingham areas.

(d) Chicken-pox - Cases were reported among school children in Docking, Rudham, Bircham, North Creake, Syderstone and Dersingham.

(e) German Measles - Was reported by School Authorities in Shernbourne and other Parishes.

It will be noted therefore that although the statutorily notifiable diseases show a welcome decline, and that the "killer" diseases of the past have disappeared altogether, or been considerably mitigated in severity, there is still a serious drain on the rate of progress of the health and development of our children by the so-called minor or "childish" diseases which are not taken seriously into account. It is to be hoped that further research into the making of preventive vaccines - singly or in combination with others - will include studies in the production of an effective vaccine to protect children against their principal undefeated enemy today - the common cold and all its sequelae.

The development of a single vaccine to protect against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus is to be studied under a research programme promoted by the World Health Organisation. On the outcome of these studies, all vaccines will be standardised on an international basis. Combined vaccines will spare our children the tribulation of multiple injections and will make prophylactic inoculation programmes more practicable.

(5) Diphtheria and Whooping Cough - With the total disappearance of the former and very appreciable mitigation of symptoms in the few cases of the latter, these two once dreaded diseases have lost much of their terror. There can be <sup>no</sup> doubt that this happy result is due to the preventive vaccination offered to all children at Infant Welfare Centres and in Medical Practitioner's surgeries. Full advantage is being taken of the "combined" diphtheria and whooping cough vaccine as well as of the "triple" vaccine introduced during the year which also affords protection against Tetanus. The figures of vaccination in the Area during the year were as follows:-

Vaccine used.	Under 1 yr.	1 - 4	5 - 14	Total
Dip/Pertussis/Tetanus "Triple"	146	70	-	216
Dip/Pertussis "Combined"	78	30	-	108
Dip/Tetanus	3	-	-	3
Diphtheria	12	5	1	18
Total	239	105	1	345

Booster doses against diphtheria are normally given at school on admission but this programme has had to give way temporarily to the more urgent one of poliomyelitis.

Smallpox - Vaccinations against smallpox are being sought in increasing numbers as can be seen by the following table of vaccinations carried out in the Area:-

Age Groups	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 +	Total
Primary	396 (367)	14 (19)	12 (28)	15 (18)	34 (32)	471
Re-vaccinations	- -	- -	5 (.2)	24 (14)	84 (83)	113
Totals	396 (367)	14 (19)	17 (30)	39 (32)	118 (115)	584

Now that the duration of the journey from endemic sources in the East has been so very considerably shortened by air travel, the risks of infection have become correspondingly greater. The work of the District Nurses in overcoming the prejudices of mothers in this respect has been admirable.

#### - Fluoridation and Dental Caries -

It has regrettably been impossible for any progress to be made with the recommendation for the fluoridation of water supplies which, on the evidence now available from all over the world, would be a measure of very great value in this Area where the content of fluorine in the water is almost negligible (vide Appendix C, page 14).

The World Health Organisation published a report made by an international Expert Committee on the subject of the fluoridation of water supplies, the findings and conclusions of which could be briefly summarised as follows:-

- "1. Dental caries is one of the most prevalent and widespread diseases.
2. There is no hope of controlling the disease by present treatment methods alone.
3. Among the numerous preventive methods, the fluoridation of drinking water supplies is the most promising.
4. Drinking water containing 1 p.p.m. fluoride has a marked caries preventive action. Maximum benefits are conferred if such water is consumed throughout life.
5. There is no evidence that water containing this concentration of fluoride impairs the general health.
6. Controlled fluoridation of drinking water is a practicable and effective public health measure. "

One would imagine that, in the face of such conclusive and authoritative evidence, there would be no hesitation in adopting this measure in a land so severely afflicted by dental caries.



- Environmental Hygiene -

For details on the various factors concerned with environmental hygiene, reference is invited to the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector (Part II - pages 15-21 ).

Slum Clearance - It is unfortunate that the Council could not see their way to a steady progressive continuation of their slum clearance programme during the year. The elimination of all sub-standard accommodation and its substitution by houses in all respects fit for human habitation is a matter of fundamental importance to the health, both physical and mental, and happiness of the people. Some 12 or 13 Parishes have still to be surveyed and the list of applicants for houses is still very considerable (231) only 23 less than the total at the end of the preceding year. It will be noted that only 6 council houses were built during the year as against 30 in the preceding year. It is hoped, in the interests of the public health, that, with the improved financial facilities now available, much greater progress will be possible in the solution of this serious problem.

Disposal of Wastes - The completion of the Heacham Sewerage Scheme and the consequent elimination of private cesspools in this populous Parish, undoubtedly constitutes a very great and notable improvement in the environmental hygiene of the District, achieved at considerably greater cost, initial and recurring, than one would have thought necessary.

This development made it possible for the Council to release transport and staff for nightsoil collection from Heacham for service in some of the many Parishes which have hitherto had no facilities of public services for this purpose. It is a sad commentary on our standard of environmental hygiene that only seven out of thirty Parishes in the District were so served. On the other hand the Council were advised that it would be both uneconomical and unhygienic to extend pail emptying services to every Parish merely because one (Heacham) had been so generously dealt with. The Council accepted the view that the facilities released from Heacham should be deflected to the more hard pressed Parishes and that, simultaneously, steps should be taken to initiate schemes for water borne sewage disposal for other Parishes on a priority established by their individual needs.

The Syderstone Dump Problem - This was the cause of several complaints from the Parish Council on the grounds of nuisance from smoke, stench, rat breeding, interference with amenities and fly breeding. Steps were taken to improve the condition and methods employed by the Contractor, but the volume and character of the refuse to be disposed of (from Sculthorpe Base) and the inadequacy of the present site will probably make this a matter for further consideration in the near future.

The Slaughter Houses Act 1958 - Copies of the minimum standards prescribed under this Act were distributed to the twelve licensees in the District for their attention and guidance. A report on the situation is due in 1959.

The Factories Act 1937 - The following is a summary of inspections carried out under Part I of the Act:-

<u>No. of Factories on the Register.</u>	<u>Number of Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>	<u>Prosecutions.</u>
72	24	2	Nil

There were two cases in which sanitary conveniences were found defective and the matter was remedied on reference to H.M.'s. Inspector.

Formal reports submitted separately.



APPENDIX A.- CLIMATIC DATA -

	Mean Daily Maximum Temp.	Mean Daily Minimum Temp.	Mean Daily Temp.	Total Rainfall (inches)	Mean Relative Humidity
January	40.4 (44.9)	32.7 (37.6)	36.5 (41.3)	2.90 (1.87)	90.5 (88.8)
February	44.4 (45.3)	35.6 (35.3)	39.8 (40.3)	4.00 (3.12)	87.5 (89.8)
March	43.3 (53.6)	32.3 (41. )	37.8 (47.3)	1.22 (2.41)	84.5 (86.3)
April	50.4 (49.0)	38.0 (39.9)	44.2 (46.5)	1.04 (0.54)	78.5 (80. )
May	60.0 (56.6)	44.4 (42.1)	52.2 (49.3)	2.93 (1.29)	77.25 (76.5)
June	63.2 (67.5)	48.7 (48.8)	59.5 (58.1)	2.26 (1.74)	84.3 (73.3)
July	67.6 (67.9)	52.8 (54.4)	60.2 (61.1)	4.00 (3.33)	83. (84.3)
August	68.0 (65.6)	53.3 (52.4)	60.7 (59. )	2.15 (2.39)	84.8 (83 )
September	65.1 (59.8)	52.6 (48.3)	58.9 (54.1)	2.57 (4.38)	85.5 (83.8)
October	56.5 (56.9)	45.9 (46.5)	51.9 (51.7)	2.27 (1.47)	88.8 (87. )
November	47.7 (46.6)	40.0 (40.0)	43.9 (43.3)	1.62 (1.71)	93.0 (87.3)
December	43.7 (42.8)	35.6 (35.4)	38.7 (39.1)	2.98 (2.60)	94.8 (89.8)

Figures in brackets denote preceding year's figures.

## APPENDIX B.

## CAUSES OF DEATHS.

	Males	Females	Totals
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	- ( - )	- ( - )	- ( - )
2. " other.	- ( - )	- ( - )	- ( - )
3. Other infective diseases	- ( - )	1 ( 1 )	1 ( 1 )
4. Cancer - Stomach	4 ( 3 )	4 ( 2 )	8 ( 5 )
5. " - Lungs bronchi	3 ( 6 )	1 ( - )	4 ( 6 )
6. " - breast	- ( - )	5 ( 3 )	5 ( 3 )
7. " - uterus	- ( - )	2 ( 2 )	2 ( 2 )
8. " - other forms.	8 ( 4 )	10 ( 6 )	18 ( 20 )
9. Leukaemia	- ( 2 )	1 ( - )	- ( 2 )
10. Diabetic	- ( 1 )	1 ( 2 )	1 ( 3 )
11. Vascular lesions, nervous system	12 ( 16 )	17 ( 17 )	29 ( 33 )
12. Coronary disease of the heart	18 ( 11 )	14 ( 8 )	32 ( 19 )
13. Hypertension with heart disease	1 ( - )	- ( 2 )	1 ( 2 )
14. Other diseases of the heart	17 ( 16 )	13 ( 17 )	30 ( 33 )
15. Other diseases of the circulation	11 ( 5 )	7 ( 12 )	18 ( 17 )
16. Influenza	2 ( 1 )	- ( 2 )	2 ( 3 )
17. Pneumonia	3 ( 8 )	2 ( 8 )	5 ( 16 )
18. Bronchitis	4 ( 1 )	1 ( 1 )	5 ( 2 )
19. Other respiratory diseases	2 ( 1 )	- ( 2 )	2 ( 3 )
20. Ulcers, stomach and duodenum	- ( 1 )	1 ( 2 )	1 ( 3 )
21. Gastritis and diarrhoea	- ( - )	1 ( 1 )	1 ( 1 )
22. Nephritis and nephrosis	- ( 1 )	1 ( 1 )	1 ( 2 )
23. Prostatic enlargement	2 ( 3 )	- ( - )	2 ( 3 )
24. Pregnancy and childbirth	- ( - )	- ( - )	- ( - )
25. Congenital malformations	- ( 1 )	1 ( - )	1 ( 1 )
26. Other diseases	15 ( 11 )	14 ( 22 )	29 ( 33 )
27. Motor accidents	3 ( 1 )	- ( - )	3 ( 1 )
28. All other accidents	2 ( - )	5 ( 4 )	7 ( 4 )
29. Suicide	1 ( - )	- ( - )	1 ( - )
Totals	108 ( 104 )	101 ( 116 )	209 ( 237 )

APPENDIX C.

Report on Bacteriological examination of samples of water  
taken during year.

Parish	<u>Public Supply</u>		<u>Private Sources</u> (Wells)	
	<u>Satis- factory.</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory.</u>	<u>Satis- factory.</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory.</u>
Bircham, Gt.	7	-	-	-
Brancaster	-	-	2	-
Burnham Overy Staithe	-	-	1	1
Creake, South	-	-	1	1
Creake, North	-	-	-	1
Docking	4	-	-	-
Fring	10	-	-	-
Heacham	6	-	-	-
Holme	2	-	-	-
Houghton	11	1	-	-
Ringstead	1	-	-	-
Rudham, East	-	-	2	4
Rudham, West	-	-	-	1
Snettisham	-	-	2	1
Totals	39	1	8	10

## - APPENDIX D -

Source and Date of sample.	Tap, rising main, Gt. Birchem Borehole. 23.1.58.
Appearance	Clear
Nature of Deposit	Nil
Colour	Nil
Reaction	Faintly alkaline. pH 7.5
Odour	Nil
Taste	Satisfactory
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.01 parts per million
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.01 " " "
Nitrate Nitrogen	10 " " "
Nitrite Nitrogen	Practically Nil
Chlorine as Chlorides	26 " " "
Total Hardness	250 " " "
Temporary Hardness	200 " " "
Permanent Hardness	50 " " "
Fluoride	0.10 " " "

Opinion -

"This water is of very good organic quality and the chemical analysis shows no sign of pollution. .... in our opinion this water is suitable for drinking and general purposes. The fluorine content is low and is of the same order as that of most East Anglian water supplies".

(Sgd) Lincoln, Sutton & Wood.

- P A R T   I I -

THE REPORT OF

MR. W.B. JENKINS, SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

DOCKING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



## 1. Inspections and Visits.

The number of inspections and visits made in connection with the various branches of public health work during the year are as follows:-

Inspections coming within the purview of the Public Health Act 1936, for the abatement of nuisances, in connection with water supplies, drainage work, building byelaws, etc.....	394
Improvement Grants under the Housing Act 1949 .....	132
Housing, Repairs, Slum Clearance, etc .....	194
Interviewing applicants for Council houses prior to reporting to Tenants' Selection Sub-Committee ... ..	3
Factories Act, 1937 ... ..	36
Shops' Act .....	79
Milk & Dairies Regulations .....	5
Food Premises for food inspection, food byelaws and Food & Drugs Act requirements, including ice-cream premises .....	167
Slaughterrhouses and butchers' shops for meat inspection .....	1675
Administration of Public Cleansing Schemes .....	894
Control of Moveable Dwellings .....	35
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 .....	21
Supervision of Public Conveniences .....	44
Miscellaneous .....	34

## 2. Notices.

(a) PRELIMINARY. The following preliminary notices were served, requiring the provisions of the various Acts and Regulations to be complied with:-

Housing Acts 1936 - 1937 .....	13
Public Health Act, 1936 .....	34
Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 .....	-
Factories Act, 1937 .....	2
Shops Act 1950 .....	3
Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 .....	34
Meat Regulations, 1924 .....	-
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.....	1

(b) STATUTORY. The Council authorised the serving of three Statutory Notices, two under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, in respect of rat-infested land; and one requiring the owner of premises to provide proper refuse bins for the storage of refuse. These notices were complied with.

### 3. Housing.

(a) SLUM CLEARANCE. As a result of the Council's policy at the end of 1957 to defer temporarily the work of slum clearance, no surveys of the parishes remaining to be dealt with were carried out.

As stated in my last annual report, the following parishes, therefore, have still to be dealt with for slum clearance purposes:-

Snettisham, Ingoldisthorpe, Ringstead, Holme, Thornham, Brancaster, Brancaster Staithe, Birchams, Syderstone, Stanhoe and the remaining smaller places, such as Bagthorpe, Fring, etc.

(b) Number of Families Re-housed. The number of families rehoused by the Council under the Slum Clearance programme was 12; 34 families were rehoused to fill casual vacancies in Council houses.

At the end of the year there were 231 applicants on the list for Council houses.

(c) New Houses. During the year, 6 Council houses were built, and 28 were erected by private enterprise.

Housing Act 1949. Improvement Grants. During the year, there were 34 formal applications made to the Council for Improvement Grants. Grants were made in respect of 28 of the applications; 4 were refused and 2 withdrawn.

The grants that were given assisted in the cost of improving 31 houses, 20 of these being owner-occupied, and 11 tenanted.

The total amount of grants approved was £3,600, an average of approximately £116 per house improved.

Last year, the average grant per house improved was £133.

### 4. Food Premises.

The estimated numbers of the various food premises in the District are as follows:-

Grocers & General Stores .....	120
Butchers. . . . .	20
Fish Friers. . . . .	8
Restaurants & Cafes .....	20
Licensed Premises ; .....	65
Licensed Slaughterhouses .....	12
School Canteens .....	17
Poultry Pluckers .....	3
Cheese Manufacturers .....	1
Bakehouses .....	15

The number of food premises requiring registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, are as follows:-

Ice-cream Premises .....	73
Meat Preserving Premises .....	20
Dairies .....	11

## 5. Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The work of inspecting food premises under the Regulations was continued throughout the year, 167 visits being made for this purpose.

The Regulations deal with requirements relating to:-

- (1) Precautions to be taken by persons handling food;
- (2) Cleanliness of equipment;
- (3) Facilities for washing food and equipment;
- (4) The structural condition of food premises, and other matters connected with the supply of clean and wholesome food.

The inspections dealt primarily with the condition of the premises themselves, and the provision of equipment, such as sinks, and hot and cold water supplies, etc.

One case of non-compliance with the Regulations by a bakery firm situated outside the district, was reported to the Council.

## 6. Meat Inspection.

Throughout the year, the work of meat inspection at the 12 licensed slaughterhouses in the district was carried out.

As I have mentioned in previous reports, owing to the number of slaughterhouses in the District, their wide distribution throughout the area, and the fact that killing is taking place almost every day of the week, a great deal of the time of the Health Department staff is taken up by this service.

However, the amount of diseased meat found in slaughterhouses, and which is reported to the Council month by month, indicates, without any doubt, the need for this service to be maintained on as high a level as possible.

Details of the carcasses inspected, and meat condemned are shown in the following table:-

Carcasses inspected and condemned				
Number Inspected	Cattle 1159	Calves 28	Sheep 1010	Pigs 2930
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	3	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	174	3	11	110
Percentage of number inspected affected by disease other than Tuberculosis	15.09 (8.81)	17.85 (5.88)	1.38 (1.04)	4.06 (2.09)
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	2	1	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	71	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6.29 (3.57)	3.57 (Nil)	Nil (Nil)	2.35 (1.6)
Cysticercus Bovis	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

⌘ The proportion inspected is approximately 100%

Figures in brackets relate to preceding year.



Miscellaneous Foodstuffs.

Various articles of food were reported by tradespeople as being need of inspection before they could be offered for sale to the public, and the following quantities of food were found to be unfit for consumption:-

113 tins of canned fruit, vegetables and soups.  
 15 " " " meat & fish  
 16 " " " milk  
 85lbs. of miscellaneous foodstuffs.

Ice Cream --

No samples were taken in 1958 owing to shortage of staff.

7. Public Cleansing -

(a) Cesspool and Lavatory Pail Emptying. The work of emptying lavatory pails was continued throughout the year in the following parishes:- Heacham, Snettisham Ringstead, Burnham Market, Burnham Overy, Docking and South Creak. In Parishes where the Council did not undertake this service, the disposal of nightsoil was carried out by the householders themselves.

The emptying of cesspools in all parishes in the District was maintained, four free emptyings a year being given, if necessary. A summary of the work done in this connection is shown thus:-

Number of emptyings given	(a)	private dwellings	=	1446
" " " "	(b)	Council houses	=	387
" " " "	(c)	" "	=	
		Sewage Works	=	23

Number of loads removed = 4306

Approximately 3,229,500 gallons of cesspool contents were removed and disposed of by the two machines and four men engaged on this work. In addition to cesspool emptying, these two machines and four men, with another machine and two men, also carried out the collection and disposal of nightsoil from the seven villages mentioned above.

In the early part of the year, the services of a firm of contractors had to be employed to assist the Council with cesspool emptying, at a time when it was impossible to cope with the volume of outstanding work. However, by the end of the year, the benefit of the Heacham sewerage scheme was beginning to be reflected in the cesspool emptying service, and the periods which householders hitherto had to wait to have their cesspools emptied, were considerable reduced.

The foregoing figures do, I believe, give the Council some indication of the considerable amount of work involved in these two aspects of public cleansing.

The estimated annual cost of cesspool and lavatory pail emptying for the financial year 1958/59, as allowed for in the estimates was £7,017.

(b) Refuse Collection. The collection of house refuse was continued throughout the year, collections being approximately every eleven days, with the exception of Heacham, where a weekly service was given.

Four machines and 12 men are engaged on this service, refuse being collected from the actual place of storage on householders' properties.

Few serious complaints were received during the year, although at times it was not always possible to adhere strictly to the rota of collections. The present frequency of collections is undoubtedly an improvement on the service given prior to the middle of 1957, when an additional lorry was put into service, and the time between collections was reduced from approximately 18 days to 11 days.

Despite this improvement, a weekly collection of refuse is, in my opinion, the minimum service that should be aimed at some time in the not too distant future.

The annual cost of refuse collection, as allowed for in the 1958/59 estimates was £8,651.

#### 8. Refuse Disposal - Hunstanton U.D.C.

A request from the Hunstanton U.D.C. to provide a tip for the disposal of refuse from the urban area was agreed to, the pit at Thornham being used for this purpose.

#### 9. Salvage.

Salvageable materials, such as rags, metal and bones, value £133.12.10d. were recovered by the refuse collectors. Half the proceeds were paid to the collectors as a salvage bonus, and the other half credited to the Council.

#### 10. Sewerage.

By the end of the year, the work of connecting existing house drainage systems to the public sewer, and the elimination of private cesspools was almost completed in the sewered area of Heacham; and work had started on the conversion of pail and vault closets to water closets. Apart from Heacham, no other work was undertaken anywhere in the district regarding the provision of new public sewers.

The condition of the sewer ditches at Snettisham again gave cause for concern, as the pollution is progressively increasing year by year. There is no doubt in my mind, that in the near future, the Council will be faced with the problem of having to decide whether to try and effect some means of purification of the effluent in these ditches, or to provide a proper system of sewerage in Snettisham.

Maintenance work of sewer ditches in Snettisham and East Rudham was carried out as usual.

#### 11. Moveable Dwellings.

Routine inspections were made of sites licensed for moveable dwellings, and any unsatisfactory conditions found were brought to the attention of the owner of the site.

The number of licensed sites in the District by the end of the year was 31, and licenses were also granted in respect of 17 individual caravans.



### 12. Milk and Dairies.

There are eleven retail dairymen in the District, and these are all licensed for the sale of milk under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations.

### 13. Factories and Workshops.

There are approximately 72 premises in the District which rank as factories or workshops. At two of these, contraventions of the Factories Act were found, and later rectified by the occupiers.

### 14. Water Supplies.

(a) Public Supply. The whole of the Council's district is covered by a public mains supply, the main sources of supply being the boreholes and pumping stations at Great Bircham and Fring.

The Parish of Heacham is supplied by Hunstanton U.D.C. and Houghton by Freebridge Lynn R.D.C.

Regular sampling is carried out by the staffs of the Public Health and Water Departments, and during the year 70 samples were taken from the public supply, 69 being reported on as being highly satisfactory, and one as suspicious. A repeat sample from the supply giving the suspicious result, proved entirely satisfactory.

(b) Private Wells. 19 samples were taken from private wells. Of these, 7 were reported on as being unsatisfactory, 4 were "suspicious" and 8 were satisfactory.

When unsatisfactory samples were found, all necessary action was taken to obtain a satisfactory supply, by sterilisation of the well, or by having the public supply made available. Through such action, the mains supply was made available to the occupiers of 6 houses.

### 15. Dirty and Verminous Premises.

Informal action was taken against the occupier of one house which was dirty and verminous.

### 16. Rodent Control.

During the year, 347 complaints were received in connection with premises which were infested with rats or mice. In 1957, 356 complaints were received, and 279 in 1956.

In addition to dealing with these complaints, regular treatment of the Council's 15 refuse tips was also carried out.

As a measure of economy, the rodent control staff was reduced from two operatives to one.

### 17. Infectious Diseases.

Investigations were made into 8 cases of infectious disease, and 5 disinfections were carried out.

2 faeces samples were collected for laboratory examination.

W.B. JENKINS

Senior Public Health Inspector.



